

Section 4. REMARKS


The abstract has been amended herein to delete parenthetical reference numbers from the original text, and the amended abstract is set out on a separate page in Appendix A hereof.

In the specification, a reference to the international application and Great Britain application on which priority is based, has been added.

In the claims, claim 33 has been canceled, new claim 32 has been added (such action in numbering of the added new claim being proper, since the international application lacked any claim 32) and claims 1-10 and 12-31 have been amended to remove parenthetical numerical references from the claims and otherwise to correct spelling and typographical errors of a minor character in the original text of the claims, so that such claims, as now amended, are in proper form for examination.

It is requested that examination and prosecution of this application proceed on the basis of the specification and pending claims 1-32 as amended herein.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven J. Hultquist
Reg. No. 28021
Attorney for Applicants

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/
TECHNOLOGY LAW
P.O. Box 14329
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: (919) 419-9350
Fax: (919) 419-9354
Attorney File No.: 4245-107

Appendix A

Abstract

An apparatus for the storage of a protein, ~~(20) comprising~~ including a first compartment ~~(30)~~ for storing the protein ~~(20)~~ and a second compartment ~~(40)~~ for storing an alkaline buffer, ~~(50)~~, ~~the~~ The second compartment ~~(40) being~~ is in fluid communication with the first compartment ~~(30)~~ ~~is described~~. In one arrangement, ~~preferential embodiment of the invention~~, the alkaline buffer comprises calcium ions that promote ~~which encourage~~ the gelling of the protein ~~(20)~~. A method for the storage of a protein ~~(20)~~ is also described, which includes. ~~The method comprises:~~ a first step of placing the protein in a first storage compartment, ~~(30)~~; a second step of exposing the protein ~~(20)~~ to an alkaline buffer, ~~(50)~~; and a third step of maintaining the protein ~~(20)~~ in ~~the~~ an alkaline atmosphere in the first storage compartment ~~(30)~~.